



# LaMORinda

DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Thursday, June 10th

## Contra Costa Times Political Editor *Lisa Vorderbrueggen* will Analyze the June Primary Election

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### This month's meeting

Meeting Date  
2nd Thursday  
of the Month

Orinda  
Community  
Church

10 Irwin Way  
Orinda

Social Hour: 6:30 p.m.  
Club Business: 7:15 p.m.  
Speaker: 8:00 p.m.

Cost: \$5, Students Free

We ask all those who can to  
please bring enough dessert  
to serve six.

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Next Regular Club  
Meeting will be in  
September

In the mean time we  
will be participating  
in the Orinda  
4th of July Parade.

Also we are looking  
to have an early  
August Pot-luck in  
Moraga  
at the commons.  
(More info coming by  
email in June.)



FPPC ID# 1237201

JUNE 2010

### Lamorinda Democratic Club June 8 Endorsements

#### CONTRA COSTA COUNTY OFFICES

<b>John Gioia</b> , Supervisor, District 1	<b>Karen Mitchoff</b> , Supervisor, District 4
<b>Brian Kalinowski</b> , Sheriff-Coroner	<b>Joseph Ovick</b> , Supt. of Schools
<b>Karen Thibodeau</b> , Treasurer-Tax Collector	

*The Lamorinda Democratic Club has not made an endorsement in the following two races. However, we strongly encourage you to consider voting for one of the Democrats running for office. The Democrats seeking these offices include:*

**Bob Brooks, Ross Butler, Gus Kramer**, Contra Costa Assessor  
**Elle Falahat, William O'Malley**, Contra Costa District Attorney

*Members of the Lamorinda Democratic Club that are running for Contra Costa Democratic Central Committee:*

**Diddo Clark, John Hall, Carolyn Phinney, Rich Verilli**, District 2: (Can vote for 5)  
**Brodie Hilp, Rao Kaza**, District 3: (Can vote for 4)  
**Greg Enholm**, District 5: (Can vote for 4)

#### U.S. AND STATE OFFICES - PRIMARY JUNE 8TH

<b>Barbara Boxer</b> , U.S. Senate	<b>John Garamendi</b> , 10th Congress District
<b>George Miller</b> , 7th Congress District	<b>Jerry McNeerney</b> , 11th Congress District
<b>Jerry Brown</b> , Governor	<b>Debra Bowen</b> , Secretary of State
<b>John Chiang</b> , State Controller	<b>Bill Lockyer</b> , State Treasurer
<b>Betty Yee</b> , Board of Equalization	<b>Tom Torlakson</b> , Supt. Public Instruction
<b>Susan Bonilla</b> , 11th Assembly District	<b>Nancy Skinner</b> , 14th Assembly District
<b>Joan Buchanan</b> , 15th Assembly District	

[www.ldclub.org](http://www.ldclub.org)

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**Measures Endorsed by the Lamorinda Democratic Club**  
**ON THE JUNE 8, 2010 BALLOT**

Prop 14: Primary Election Process Reform, Greater Participation in Elections	<b>Vote NO on 14</b>
Prop 15: Political Reform Act of 1974: California Fair Elections Act of 2008	<b>Vote YES on 15</b>
Prop 16: New Two-Thirds Requirement for Local Public Electricity Providers	<b>Vote NO on 16</b>
Prop 17: Allows Auto Insurance Companies to base their prices in part on a driver's history of insurance coverage	<b>Vote NO on 17</b>

**Why We Need to Pass Proposition 15!**

*by Tony Suh, LDC Treasurer*

Tired of "Fat-Cats" dictating what our electeds do or don't do?! Can't trust them? We all know that they play to the tunes of the "pipers"! But, why? Who are they? They are the corporations and businesses who profit from what our electeds are paid to do! What is their prime motive? Answer - for their profit-making self-interest. But, how many of us share in most of that profit? We need clean money! Start with prop 15!

dollars", then we need to ***pass* PROPOSITION 15 *now!* IT IS THE REFORM THAT MAKES ALL OTHER REFORMS POSSIBLE!** Mail in your ballots ***NOW!***, or, to go to the polls on June 8. If you care about government that works for **YOU!** Please urge all your CA voters to do the same by email, snail-mail and phone-calls. This is one voter initiative that really is **by, for and of the people - us!**

If we want our electeds to spend their time to tell us what they will do specifically to help us instead of "dialing for

**ISSUES COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Lamorinda Democratic Club's Board of Directors has unanimously approved the Issues' Committee recommendations that the club formally endorse these positions on these issues. The club will vote on this recommendation at the June 10 meeting.

**ISSUES QUALIFIED FOR THE NOVEMBER, 2010 BALLOT:**

**1377: Legalize Marijuana and allow it to be regulated and taxed. .... Vote YES**  
**(Principles: Progressive Taxes, Promote democratic Values, Promote the Common Good without Infringement of Person Liberty)**

- 1) Cost: Keeping marijuana illegal is very expensive.
  - Cost of crime. Selling is an economic endeavor. Protection of product territory is high on all economic organizations priority.
  - Cost on police. Huge quantities of cash are seized by police each year. Temptation to cash between crime bust and evidence lock-up is in the factor of 10 times a police officers annual salary.
  - Cost of prisons. A majority of the prison population were first sent to prison for an economic crime, selling marijuana.
  - Cost to health safety. Street marijuana is unregulated by the FDA
  - Human cost to the crime effected areas. We could almost say the reason for keeping marijuana illegal is racial prejudice
- 2) Failure: Prohibition doesn't work.
  - It didn't work for Alcohol and regulation and taxation are working well for Nicotine.
  - Prohibition does not reduce use to habitual users.
  - In the 1940's 3% of the population were habitual users, in 2010 4% of the population are habitual users. Why did we spend so many billions with NO result!
- 3) Loss of Revenue: The only way to reduce marijuana use is through regulation and taxation.

Primary opposition: Police, Narcotics agencies, Prison Guard Unions, i.e. organizations with financial interests in keeping marijuana illegal.

## Club Officer Elections At May Meeting

At the May meeting, the club members elected officers for 2010-2011

**Craig Cheslog, President**  
**Tony Suh, Treasurer**

**John Hall, Vice President**  
**Marie McDonald, Secretary.**

## Lisa Vorderbrueggen Analyzes the June Primary Election

Contra Costa Times Political Editor Lisa Vorderbrueggen will analyze and recap the June California primary election as the Lamorinda Democratic Club's featured speaker at our June 10, 2010 meeting.

The club will meet at the Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way. The social hour begins at 6:30 p.m., with the club's business meeting to follow at 7:15 p.m., and the speaker program to begin at 8 p.m.

Vorderbrueggen will offer her expert perspective on the June primary elections. As the political editor of the Contra Costa Times, she is one of the few people who can offer informed and comprehensive analysis of the election results from the statewide primaries down to the important county elections that will be decided just two days before her June 10 appearance at our club meeting.

Vorderbrueggen is the political editor and columnist for the Contra Costa Times and the Bay Area News Group since late 2004. She is a contributor to the popular "Political Blotter" blog ([www.ibabuzz.com/politics](http://www.ibabuzz.com/politics)) which is a major source of breaking political news items in our area. Prior to her political assignment, she covered regional growth and transportation issues for the Contra Costa Times.

She joined Knight Ridder in 1996 after working as the Carson City, Nev., bureau chief for the Reno Gazette Journal and as a Washington, D.C., correspondent for the Las Vegas Review Journal. She also worked as reporter, editor, and columnist for the Nevada Appeal, a Carson City, Nev., daily. Vorderbrueggen's work has been recognized by the California Newspaper Publishers Association, Nevada Press Association and the East Bay Press Club. She earned her bachelor's degree in journalism in 1989 at the University of Nevada, Reno.

## What are Special Districts?

**In November, we will be voting for members of their boards.  
Do you know who to vote for? We will try to keep you informed.**

Special-purpose districts or special district governments in the United States are independent governmental units that exist separately from, and with substantial administrative and fiscal independence from, general purpose local governments such as county, municipal, and township governments. As defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, the term special district governments excludes school districts. Special district governments provide specific services that are typically not provided by general-purpose governments. The services they provide range from basic needs such as hospitals, sewerage, and fire protection to smaller necessities such as mosquito abatement and upkeep of cemeteries. Most special districts provide only a single service. In 2007, the U.S. had more than 37,000 special district governments.

Special districts serve limited areas and have governing boards that accomplish legislatively assigned functions using public funds.

Special districts provide specialized services to persons living within the designated geographic area and may

contract to provide services outside the area. Special districts often cross the lines of towns, villages, and hamlets but less frequently cross city or county lines. Increasingly, however, regional special districts are being created that may serve a large portion of a state or portions of more. Each district is governed by a board of directors, commissioners, board of supervisors, or the like. These boards may be appointed by public officials, appointed by private entities, popularly elected, or elected by benefited citizens (typically property owners). Sometimes, one or more public officials will serve as an ex officio member on the board.

The board of a special district serves primarily as a managing board and often appoints a chief executive for day-to-day operations and decision making and policy implementation. In the New England states, special districts are often run in the same town meeting fashion as other local governments. Most districts have employees, but some districts exist solely to raise funds by issuing bonds and/or by providing tax increment financing.

*From Wikipedia.org*

**If your address label says RENEW then your 2010 CLUB MEMBERSHIP DUES for the current year are due.**

**Lamorinda Democratic Club,**

**Board of Directors**

President: ..... Craig Cheslog ..... [president@ldclub.org](mailto:president@ldclub.org)  
Vice President: ..... John Hall ..... [vp@ldclub.org](mailto:vp@ldclub.org)  
Past President: ..... Terry Leach ..... [past-president@ldclub.org](mailto:past-president@ldclub.org)  
Secretary: ..... Marie McDonald ..... [secretary@ldclub.org](mailto:secretary@ldclub.org)  
Treasurer: ..... Tony Suh ..... [treasurer@ldclub.org](mailto:treasurer@ldclub.org)

**Committees**

Youth Outreach: ..... Sarah Barrett/  
..... Jared O'Rourke  
Membership: ..... John Hall  
Publicity: ..... Carlyn Obringer  
Newsletter: ..... John Hall ..... [newsletter@ldclub.org](mailto:newsletter@ldclub.org)  
Telephone: ..... Helen Gough  
Meeting: ..... Carlyn Obringer  
Welcoming: ..... Mary Ann Hoisington  
Voter Reg: ..... Valerie Sloven  
Candidates: ..... John Hall  
Issues: ..... John Hall  
UDC Representative: ..... Craig Cheslog  
..... Valerie Sloven  
DPCCC Representative: ..... Valerie Sloven

**Changes**



**NEW LDC PHONE NUMBER - (925) 567-3367 (DEMS)**

We are using google voice and when possible the call will go directly to a person rather than just voice mail

**NEW WEB CALENDAR at LDClub.org**

On the LDC web page go to "Events" in the page header. We have a new google calendar for the LDC and if you have events that you would like to post send them to [jdhall@mac.com](mailto:jdhall@mac.com)

**2010 Club Membership Dues for the current year are due.**

Use the remittance envelope provided with this newsletter or online via our website: <http://www.ldclub.org>.

**Dues are \$25 per Individual and \$50 for Families.**

Additional contributions are welcomed. They help to cover the expenses of our monthly meetings and newsletters and help to support our outreach and endorsement activities to promote the election of area Democrats at local, state and national levels. Contributions of \$100 or more require identification of your occupation and employer.

**Your early and prompt attention to this will be much appreciated.**